

Annual Report

July 1, 2007—June 30, 2008

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Cooperator of the Year 2007 *Doug Jarrell*



Pictured are Doug and Wendy Jarrell, along with their children Lockwood, Brittany and Emerson.

Each year the Hampton Soil & Water Conservation District awards a farmer or landowner for outstanding conservation efforts. The District recently recognized Doug Jarrell as the 2007 Cooperator of the Year.

Doug has been a full-time farmer for the past six years. However, the past six years does not include all the time that he spent farming while in high school. Doug and his dad farm approximately 750 acres in the Nixville/Furman community of Hampton County. Their crops include cotton, corn, soybeans, peanuts and watermelons.

Doug utilizes no-till to plant his cover crops in the fall followed by strip-till planted row crops in the spring. He applies a variable rate of fertilizer and lime based on soil samples from management zones within each field. These practices reduce run-off while improving soil quality, water quality, and wildlife habitat.

The Conservation District appreciates Doug's hard work on improving the natural resources on his farm and his willingness to implement innovative conservation practices.

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Hampton Welcomes New District Conservationist

The Hampton Soil & Water Conservation District, along with NRCS are proud to welcome Ray Dotson to Hampton County as the new USDA NRCS District Conservationist for Hampton and Allendale Counties. Ray joined the NRCS and District staff in early August and is still adjusting to Hampton County.

Ray was born and raised in Mississippi, right next door to the Mississippi River. Ray interned with NRCS in Florida during the summer of 2005 and was hired as a Soil Conservationist during the winter of 2006. During his time with NRCS, Ray has worked with two NRCS Field Offices covering six counties and has gained a tremendous amount of experience with programs including EQIP, CSP and WHIP. Working with these programs has given him knowledge of cow/calf operations, dairy operations, row cropping and wildlife.

Ray is excited about the opportunity to serve as the District Conservationist in Hampton County. Welcome to South Carolina, Ray!



"Litter Trashes Everyone"

Excited students ranging from kindergarten to 6th grade filed into the Brunson Elementary Gymnasium to watch an entertaining puppet and marionette show. The show was hosted by the Hampton Conservation District this past April to celebrate Earth Day. The puppet show was created by PalmettoPride and teaches children ways to take pride, take responsibility and take action against litter in their community. The play features the Columbia Marionette Theatre's marionettes and hand puppets that educate children on ways to help make South Carolina a cleaner, more beautiful place to live.



During the show, the puppets encourage all of their friends and the audience to put litter in the proper place and tells how food wrappings can pose a threat to wildlife, along with making your community unattractive. The students were entertained by numerous marionettes of children and animals, upbeat music and songs.



13th Annual Wild & Well Day

Lake Warren State Park was once again the perfect site for the annual Wild & Well Day program that was held on May 23. The concept behind this fun day for fourth graders was to bring about an understanding and awareness of the environment, and encourage health life-style choices. Many of the teachers involved expressed their appreciation and stated that the field trip was an important learning experience for their students. The hands-on sessions focused on teaching reptiles, water conservation, forestry, point and non-point pollution, furs/animal tracks, dairy, and anti-tobacco.

We would like to thank the following agencies for continuing to be partners with this successful program: Beaufort Soil & Water Conservation District, Hampton and Orangeburg Counties Clemson Extension 4-H, Hampton

County Recreation Department, Lake Warren State Park, New Life Center, SC Department of Natural Resources, SC Forestry Commission, The Low-country Institute at Spring Island, and USDA NRCS.



An interactive session revolving around animals, their tracks and habitats, kept the students busy with identification.



These students are trying to count the rings on a tree cookie to determine approximately how old the tree was at the time it was cut down.



Karissa Ulmer, Hampton 4-H Agent and Erica Wiley, 4-H Summer Intern taught about dairy facts through a game of "Dairy Jeopardy".



Beach Sweep/River Sweep is South Carolina's largest one-day volunteer cleanup event. The cleanup, organized by the SC Sea Grant Consortium and SC DNR, has taken place since 1988. Last year there was over 6,000 South Carolinians who helped collect 57 tons of trash and debris from nearly 1,340 miles of our waterways. The official cleanup date this year is Saturday, September 20. The Hampton Conservation District locally sponsors this program and coordinates the cleanup and removal of debris from boat landings and adjoining roadways. Anyone can take part in the cleanup - businesses, civic clubs, recreation clubs, individuals, families, school groups and church groups.




If you are interested in participating or want more information on the program, please contact the district office at 943-2586 ext. 3.

2007-2008 Affiliate Members

The Hampton Soil & Water Conservation District is pleased to announce all those who participated in this past year's Affiliate Membership Program. All contributions received through the Affiliate Membership Program are used to support the educational programs offered through the Conservation District. We have numerous educational programs already in place and have the potential to increase programming offered to assist students and all citizens in Hampton County.

The citizens of Hampton County are fortunate to have an abundance of natural resources ~ soil, water, air, plants and animals. These resources will not last forever unless they are used wisely. The Commissioners of the Hampton Soil & Water Conservation District are committed to educating children, citizens and community leaders about conservation and environmental issues.

Our conservation friends are important to us, and your donation will help continue the work that we do. We hope you will help keep this work going strong by becoming an Affiliate Member of the Hampton Soil & Water Conservation District. Thanks to all the businesses and individuals who helped to make this past year's Affiliate Membership Program a huge success!

	Supporting Member	\$25
	Sustaining Member	\$50
	Steward of the Soil	\$100+

Name	_____
Address	_____
Phone	_____
E-Mail	_____

Steward of the Soil—\$100+

Anderson & Brown, LLC
 Boyles Real Estate Co., Inc.
 Clariant Corporation
 Dr. Tire, Inc.
 Drawdy, Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Sr.
 Gibson Landclearing
 Green Acres Turf Farm, LLC
 Hampton County Farm Bureau
 J.R. Wilson Construction Co., Inc.
 Mills, Dr. Francis A.
 Palmetto Electric Cooperative, Inc.
 Palmetto State Bank

Sustaining—\$50

AgSouth Farm Credit
 American Forest Management, Inc.
 BB&T
 Goettee Farm
 Guess Farm Equipment Co., Inc.
 Hampton Animal Hospital
 Henderson, Daniel E.
 Matthews, Senator John W. Jr.
 Mexico Bay Farm
 Parker, Johnny & Peggy
 Polk's Muffler & Brake
 Shaffer-Mixson Real Estate & Auction Co.
 State Farm—Debbie Elrod

Affiliate—\$25

Benton and Rhodes, Inc.
 Bo Peep Plantation
 Breland Well Drilling
 Bug Busters, Inc.
 Bullard Farms
 Burris, Skeet & Gail
 Chitwood, Charles
 Citizens Choice Agency
 Cram, Peter
 Cummings Oil Co., Inc.
 Cusabo Plantation
 Hanna & Hanna, Inc.
 Hydro Enterprises, Inc.
 Laffitte, Mary & Norris
 Maner, C. Lawton
 Morrison Forestry & Real Estate Co., Inc.
 Pendarvis, Butch
 Scott Woodlands, LLC
 TGS Land Surveying
 Tison Motor Company, Inc.
 Wise Batten, Inc.

4-H₂O Camp

Clemson Extension 4-H and Hampton Conservation District once again co-sponsored a three-day camp that focused on water related issues. The camp was held June 2-4, 2008 at Lake Warren State Park and was host to twenty-two children. Various activities during the camp included measuring water depth and clarity, making aquatic plant presses, finding aquatic organisms through stream assessments, dissecting fish, identifying point and non-point pollution and ways to conserve water. The participants especially enjoyed the H₂O Olympics lead by one of our volunteers, Mrs. Dawn Stuckey. Everyone benefited from the many hands-on activities, experiments

and other fun projects, all that addressed SC Science Curriculum Standards. David Baker with Lake Warren State Park lead a walk and discussion on the one mile Interpretive Trail discussing wildlife, habitats and forestry along the way and everyone also was on the lookout for any wildlife sightings.

Camp Partners:

- ◇ Clemson Extension 4-H
- ◇ Hampton County Recreation Department
- ◇ Hampton Soil & Water Conservation District
- ◇ Lake Warren State Park
- ◇ SC DNR
- ◇ USDA - NRCS
- ◇ Webb Wildlife Center



Aquatic Plant Presses



H₂O Olympics



Fish dissection



Stream Assessment

SC Institute for Natural Resource Conservation



For one full week in June 2008 Cody Hutto and Alan Cope, both rising Juniors at Wade Hampton High School, attended the SC Institute for Natural Resource Conservation held at Lander University in Greenwood, SC. This is an environmental event for 11th and 12th graders that focuses heavily on experimental hands-on learning and the majority of the instructional time is held outside of a traditional classroom setting. The program exposes students to careers in conservation and offers college scholarships and college credit to those passing the comprehensive final examination. A few highlights of the camp include wildlife management, soils and geology, forestry, water quality, natural resource management and an exciting trip of kayaking and canoeing.

The Institute is sponsored by the SC Conservation District's Foundation, supported by SC DNR and hosted by Lander University's College of Science and Mathematics. Cody and Alan were both sponsored locally by the Hampton Conservation District in order to attend this camp.



CFL Bulbs—Do You Know What To Do?

With all of the hype about changing your traditional light bulbs to CFLs (Compact Florescent Lights), do you know what to do when one gets broken or they burn out? CFLs do contain a small amount of mercury, so certain steps need to be taken to ensure the area is cleaned up properly if one gets broken.

If a CFL bulb breaks -

- ◇ Do not sweep it or vacuum it.
- ◇ Wear gloves during the cleaning process.
- ◇ Use paper, a dust pan or index cards to roll the beads up, and then use tape to pick up the beads.
- ◇ To make sure you got all of it up, take a flashlight and look across the beam to see if there are any beads left.
- ◇ Wipe the area clean with a damp paper towel or disposable wipes.
- ◇ Put the spilled mercury and broken glass in a plastic bag and seal it, along with the gloves you wore and anything else used to clean up.



- ◇ Immediately place all clean-up materials outside in a trash container, or take to your local recycling center.
- ◇ Lastly, make sure to wash your hands after disposing of bags containing clean-up materials.

What if a child breaks a bulb?

- ◇ Take off their clothes and bathe them well.
- ◇ Do not wash the contaminated clothes because the mercury may contaminate the washing machine and/or pollute sewage.
- ◇ Instead, properly dispose of the clothes in a sealed plastic bag.

Recycling your expired CFL bulbs -

Do not throw your expired bulb in the trash. The Home Depot® launched a national in-store CFL bulb recycling program in June 2008. Customers can bring in any expired, unbroken CFL bulb to the Returns Desk. The bulbs are managed responsibly by an environmental management company who coordinates packaging, transportation and recycling. By recycling the bulbs allows for the reuse of glass, metals and other materials that make up fluorescent lights.

FARM-CITY DAY

Mark Your Calendar Now!!!

November 8, 2008
10:00 am—12:00 noon
Hampton County Recreation Department Park

Take a small step back in time and experience
what it was like to live on a farm

Activities for the entire family!
Corn Shelling • Spinning Wheel • Butter Making
Petting Zoo • Wagon Rides • Cider Making
Door Prizes • Refreshments • And Much More!!

Test Your Climbing Skills on the
SC National Guard's Rock Wall!!!

Sponsored by:
Clemson Extension 4-H
Hampton County Farm Bureau Women's Committee
Hampton County Recreation Department
Hampton Soil & Water Conservation District
SC National Guard
USDA - Farm Service Agency

For the weekend of October 24-26, 9th and 10th grade students will gather at Santee Cooper's Somerset Facility in Moncks Corner to learn about what keeps our water supplies clean, our rivers healthy, and our marine resources thriving. They will visit the Cooper River, venture into the salt marshes, canoe in a swamp, explore Charleston Harbor from a research vessel, hear stories around a bonfire and many other fun and exciting activities. Not to mention create many lasting memories and make new friends from all across the state!



If you know of a 9th or 10th grader who may be interested, contact the Hampton Conservation District for an application or for further information. **Applications must be in to the district office by September 12.**

Carolina Coastal Adventure is a South Carolina Conservation Districts Foundation program and sponsored by the Berkeley Soil and Water Conservation District, in partnership with Santee Cooper, Old Santee Canal Park, Berkeley County, Berkeley Electric Cooperative, SC Association of Conservation Districts and the SC Department of Natural Resources.

Conservation Programs Protect Soil, Water, and Wildlife

Landowners Encouraged to Apply by September 30th for Prioritized Funding



State Conservationist Niles Glasgow announced that September 30, 2008, is the deadline to apply for assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for two of its Farm Bill programs. NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to help South Carolina landowners address natural resource concerns, promote environmental quality, and protect wildlife habitat on property they own or control. The cost-share funds are available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), both administered by NRCS.

EQIP helps farmers improve production while protecting environmental quality by addressing such concerns as soil erosion and productivity, grazing management, water quality, animal waste, and forestry concerns. EQIP also assists eligible small-scale farmers who have historically not participated in or ranked high enough to be funded in previous program sign ups. WHIP assists landowners who want to improve wildlife habitat or restore natural ecosystems on their land.

There is a continuous signup for these programs; however, to increase your chances of funding, apply by September 30. Producers interested in applying should visit their local USDA Service Center as soon as possible to prepare their applications.

Contact your local NRCS office in Hampton County located in the Farm Bureau Building, 1002 Elm Street East, or call at 943-2586 ext. 3 to make an appointment. Visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/> for more information, including eligibility requirements.

Technical Staff

Technical assistance is provided to the Hampton Soil & Water Conservation District by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the SC Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Technical staff are Ray Dotson, NRCS District Conservationist; Mike Lott, NRCS Resource Conservationist; Charles Murdaugh, NRCS Conservation Technician; Cory Drennan, NRCS/DNR Wildlife Biologist; Paula Rhodes, District Administrative Assistant and Education Coordinator; and Jennifer Majors, SC DNR Program Coordinator.



The photograph above shows a typical construction method used to build a low hazard dike on a WRP site. The backfill was compacted by the dump truck as it backs down the dike. The bulldozer is used to level out the loose backfill material in layers no thicker than 9 inches.



Above is the completed low hazard dike constructed to restore a manipulated bay. The coconut erosion blanket will protect the bare soil until the vegetative growth is established. The geotextile fabric and #4 stone will protect the channel during high flow events.

Conservation Efforts in Hampton County

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to landowners in Hampton County. NRCS provides conservation assistance through the Hampton Soil & Water Conservation District. NRCS in Hampton County develops conservation plans and engineering designs on a variety of conservation practices that protect the natural resources in the county.

This past year NRCS certified and approved conservation practices that were installed on private land within Hampton County on a voluntary basis, with assistance from the Conservation District. The practices were installed to keep the county's water clean, preserve and sustain healthy soil and restore wild-life habitat.



Fall cover crops followed by strip-till planted spring row crops reduce soil erosion from water and wind while improving soil quality, water quality and wild-life habitat.



Pictured above is a bad erosion problem caused by cattle crossing over an old drainage ditch. As shown to the right, a new pipe was installed, grading was completed, and crushed stone and geotextile fabric was installed to stabilize this heavy use area. A new fence also will be placed around the ditch to protect the banks from livestock.



NRCS PUTTING CONSERVATION ON THE GROUND SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES APPLIED 2007-2008

◇ Cover Crop	1,327.6 ac
◇ Early Successional Habitat Development	8.2 ac
◇ Fence	7,415 Lnft
◇ Firebreak	4,500 ft
◇ Heavy Use Area Protection	1,931 sqft
◇ Nutrient Management	1,667.2 ac
◇ Pasture and Hay Planting	10 ac
◇ Pipeline	1,000 ft
◇ Prescribed Burning	901.6 ac
◇ Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	1,618 ac
◇ Water Control Structure	401 Lnft
◇ Watering Facility	8 ea
◇ Well	2 ea
◇ Wetland Restoration	145.7 ac

Helping People Help the Land



Hampton Soil & Water Conservation District

Farm Bureau Building
1002 Elm Street East, Suite B
Hampton, SC 29924

Phone: 803-943-2586, ext. 3

Fax: 803-943-5743

Email: paula.rhodes@sc.nacdnet.net

USDA Cost-Share Programs

The following is an overview of cost-share programs managed by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Applications are being accepted on a continuous basis.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP):

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is USDA's conservation program that targets production agriculture. EQIP provides cost-sharing and incentive payments for conservation practices such as cover crops followed by no-till/strip-till spring crops, terraces, grass waterways, grazing land management (fencing, wells, stockwater tanks, etc.), grass planting for pasture or hay, tree planting in cropland fields, and the modification of an irrigation system to improve water application efficiency. The use of B-20 biodiesel fuel on the farm is now eligible for incentive payments. Precision agriculture, the variable rate application of fertilizer and lime based on soil samples from management zones within each field, is also eligible for payments.

WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP):

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) provides cost-sharing and incentive payments to landowners who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on private lands. Financial assistance may be provided for practices such as prescribed burning, establishing permanent firebreaks, field borders, hedgerows, hardwood and longleaf pine planting, and management of native vegetation.

WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP):

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program to restore wetlands that have been altered or drained. Landowners participating in WRP can

establish conservation easements of either permanent or 30 year duration, or they can enter into restoration cost-share agreements where no easement is involved. In exchange for establishing a permanent conservation easement through WRP, the landowner receives payment up to the agricultural value of the land as well as cost-sharing for work needed to restore the wetland. The 30-year easement payment is 75% of what would be provided for a permanent easement on the same site and 75% of the restoration cost. In all instances, landowners continue to control access to their land. Applications are being accepted on a continuous basis.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) encourages landowners to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative covers such as wildlife plantings, trees, filter strips, or riparian buffers. Program participants receive an annual rental payment for the term of the 10 or 15 year contract. In addition, cost sharing is provided to establish the practices. There is a continuous sign-up for anyone interested in installing vegetative field borders or buffers in cropland fields or planting longleaf pines in cropland fields with sandy soils.

FOREST RENEWAL PROGRAM (FRP) AND SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE PROGRAM (SPB):

The Forest Renewal Program (FRP) and the Southern Pine Beetle Program (SPB) are both administered by the South Carolina Forestry Commission. These programs provide cost-sharing to reforest cutover land, plant open land, or improve existing woodlands through methods such as herbicide treatment and pre-commercial thinning.

All programs and services of the Conservation District, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and DNR-Land, Water and Conservation Division are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

Meetings of the Board of Commissioners are regularly scheduled on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at The Hampton Restaurant located in Hampton. All meetings are open to the public.